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Formation of the National News Council

Judicial Ethics and the National News Council

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Correspondence to Loren Ghiglione and Joan Ganz Cooney

Roger J. Traynor

The National News Council, Inc.

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February 14, 1973

Mr. William A. Rusher
Publisher
THE NATIONAL REVIEW
150 East 35 Street
New York, New York 10016

Dear Mr. Rusher:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you as a member of the National News Council. I look forward to a close and productive association in what I believe will be a venture of great public significance.

We are in the process of inviting other candidates to participate in the council's work. The complete roster of fourteen acceptances will be sent to you as soon as we have them. In addition, I will be spending the next several weeks interviewing candidates for the post of staff director of the council, which will be located in New York City. In turn, the executive director and I will select two or three professionals to be on the council staff as researchers and investigators.

I look forward to seeing you on or about March 8, when a press conference will be held to announce the launching of the National News Council and to release the names of its members and its staff director. The Twentieth Century Fund is planning a reception for council members with representatives of print and electronic news organizations. In addition, we are considering similar meetings in both the midwest and on the west coast. I hope that you will be able to join me in these meetings.

I foresee a busy agenda for the council once it gets underway. As you know, the business of the council will probably take one or two days of your time each month. But work may be especially heavy at the outset, when I am counting on the council to establish the ground rules and the priorities for our endeavor. The council is an experiment, and its success in asserting the public interest in the conflict between the government and the press depends, to a large extent, on those of us participating in its deliberations.

I want to express once again my appreciation for your willingness to serve on the council, and I am eager to work with you fulfilling its objectives.

Sincerely yours,

Roger J. Traynor

RJT/mb